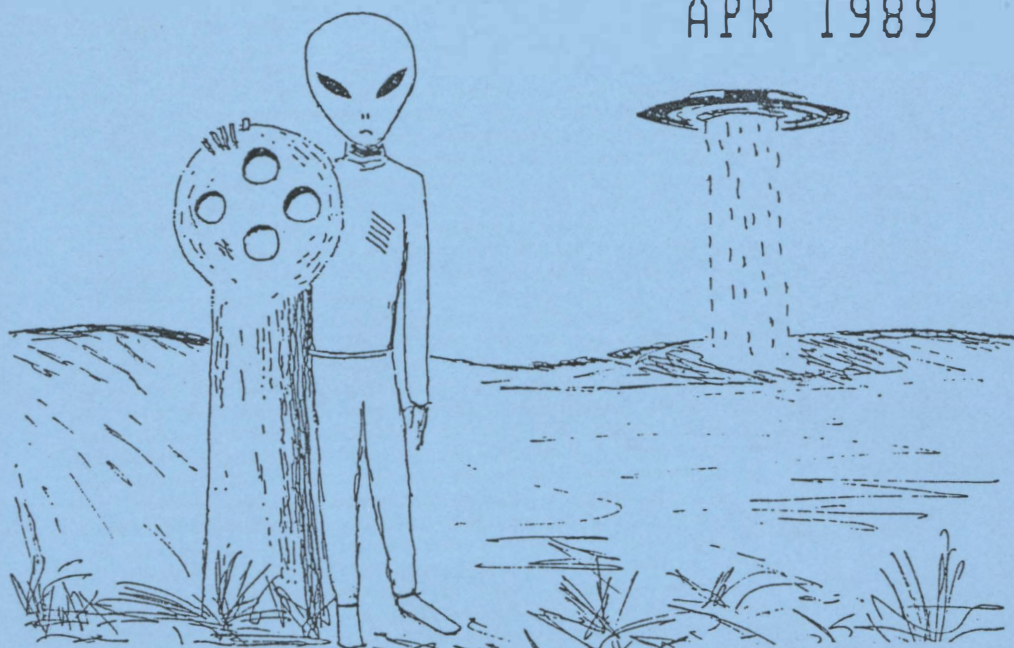


NORTHERN UFO NEWS

136

APR 1989



NORTHERN UFO NEWS SUBS: £4 for FOUR

EDITOR: JENNY RANGLES COVER: BILL CALLAGHAN

CONTENT:- Usual features plus...FSR and APEN...pp 2-3 Major cases in March (including mid air encounter over Sardinia)...pp 7-8...Cases from: Cheshire, Lancashire, Merseyside, Shropshire, Staffs. Tyne & Wear, South and West Yorkshire...pp 9- 13...CASE HISTORIES...Scottish events plus final part of the 'Perfect Abduction?' - The MIBs and conclusions.

NORTHERN UFO NEWS 37 HEATHBANK RD CHEADLE HEATH STOCKPORT CHESHIR SK3 0UP

J. R. Comments... In 1974, when NUFON first began, we were plagued for some time by a mysterious organisation called APEN (Aerial Phenomena Enquiry Network). This supposedly secret UFO group distributed documents to various researchers and did other silly (and occasionally more disturbing) things. We never found out who they were but they loved to implicate innocent people. Their spectre has reared its head again, thanks to FSR.

I wrote a piece about APEN in Magonia many moons ago, explaining why nobody in NUFON was wasting time playing their stupid games. They resurfaced briefly in 1984 over the Rendlesham Forest saga (see SKY CRASH) and in the July, August and September 1986 issues of THE UNKNOWN I wrote up absolutely everything I knew into a 10,000 word series; 'The Mystery of APEN'. For the first time I set out details of an incident in which APEN had tried (and failed) to blacken the name of FSR and current editor, Gordon Creighton.

The surprising news came from NUFON reader Brian Ratcliffe. As far as I know he still lives in Snaith Ave, Fosdyke, Lincolnshire and I name him fully for the first time because later, in the November 1986 issue of THE UNKNOWN, he published a letter confirming his research with his name and address.

Brian checked printers and found the one who allegedly produced APENs headed paper. It was the FSR printers in Reading. This was a startling revelation, which I chose to keep quiet for ten years so as not to damage respected ufologists. I was quite certain this was precisely what APEN wanted - to sow seeds of distrust by innuendo. I should add that Brian Ratcliffe never agreed with my silence and (understandably) saw me as part of an APEN plot, because I 'covered up' his discovery for so very long.

In the final part of my 1986 series I wrote; "Naturally, I chose to think that Brian had made a mistake and immediately rang the printers... Not only did this call verify everything that Brian had said, but it revealed new information... I next contacted (Gordon Creighton) and his colleague (then FSR editor, Charles Bowen). Their answers satisfied me that they did not know anything at all about APEN." (Note this vital last sentence - JR)

The article continued; "I knew (GC) a little at the time, but knew his colleague (CB) much better and had enormous respect for their journal and the work they were both doing. It seemed ridiculous to imagine that they could be connected with this group and when they and the printers explained the system for taking orders I realised what had happened. The magazine had regular costly orders (for various kinds of printing). The APEN order had been added by phone to one such list, but despatched separately (unfortunately nobody had a record of where to, because the discovery came some years afterwards). When the magazine had paid their regular bill they had not noticed the extra small item, which was a drop in the ocean compared with the total cost. Thus APEN had cleverly obtained stationery, and left a time-bomb of incrimination ticking away."

I end the piece by noting three reasons why I did not believe the evidence was proof of any FSR guilt. Namely, "my faith in FSR", the way in the past APEN "had subtly implicated me" - thus allowing me to see this ploy as "a typical set-up operation calculated to destroy the credibility of an influential UFO publication." Finally that FSR and NUFON were just forging close links, so APEN sabotage was very conveniently timed and motivated.

The above is all that I have ever written about this curious sideline to the APEN affair. Every word is factual to the best of my knowledge and, as I trust you can see, in no way does it suggest that FSR or Gordon Creighton were masterminding APEN. Indeed, on the contrary, it very pointedly and carefully argues for their innocence in an APEN operation against them.

Read the above quotes again before proceeding to the following item, from the March 1989 issue of FSR. I am grateful to Bill Callaghan for sending this. The piece is attributed to one John Squareman (???) and it reads like something at best heavily 'edited' by Gordon Creighton (who appends his own remarks after it). Squareman (perhaps a pseudonym?) tells FSR readers the following about my comments as you have just read them.

"Some time ago, namely in the pages of Britain's top magazine THE UNKNOWN ... J. Randles had already reported on the allegedly scurrilous and scandalous affair, 'The mystery of APEN' of the early and mid-1970's. In his (sic) masterly coverage of the story, J. Randles showed that the evil Nazi material disseminated by 'APEN' had in fact been produced by Gordon Creighton, and had indeed been ordered by the latter on FSRs account, from FSRs then printers... and had then been infiltrated and delivered on Creighton's instructions to Mrs Enid Grattan-Guinness of Barnet along with the printed consignments of the FSR."

Read what I ACTUALLY wrote again and compare it with that load of utter nonsense and see just how many facts diverge from the truth and how many Mr (Miss?) Squareman has invented out of thin air. Where has Enid Grattan-Guinness come from, for instance? As I said, the printers did NOT recall who the order went to. Perhaps Squareman has a hot-line to APEN, as he (she) appears to know more about this affair than was ever in my article? Assuming, of course, Mr Square(woman)'s text has any accurate sources.

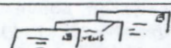
Dear old Gordon adds, in his usual polite fashion, the following commentary; "No individual at present connected with FSR, and no person still living who was ever connected in any way with FSR in the past, recalls having ever seen the slightest scrap of paper or document throwing any light on anything called 'APEN'... Since legal action has naturally not been ruled out (Quite! - JR) we shall be interested to see anything about this mysterious 'APEN' that anyone can send us... Our present estimation is that the whole thing is just another scurrilous and libellous fabrication such as one ought to expect from such quarters. As to the identity of the originator and promoter of the 'APEN' story, our readers are unlikely to have any difficulty in arriving at their own conclusions... They will identify it as yet further proof of the fertility and inventiveness of mind of the most monumental and egregious liars at large in our country today."

I print this salutary tale for anyone out there reading FSR (IS there anybody worth worrying about, or am I preaching to the converted?) Perhaps those of you familiar with the APEN farce will inform Creighton and suggest he eat his words. He should consider seasoning them with the salt most of us pinch when we read such 'Sunday Sport' trash in a once proud FSR journal.

FSR is a magazine with a noble heritage and some responsible UFO researchers still seem to be amongst its admirers. It is a pity it has descended to the gutter level made apparent by the above grossly insulting remarks, and perhaps you will reappraise your support and express disgust to the people responsible. It seems to suggest a lack of scruples and a limited understanding of how to tell fact from fiction.

I leave you to work out whom Creighton means when he speaks of 'the most monumental and egregious liars at large in our country today.' Then perhaps you ought to act according to your conscience once you decide. If you accept the twaddle printed by FSR then I would not expect you to trust Northern UFO News. Your faith in our integrity is fundamental. If you believe FSR and ask me for a subscription refund I will happily oblige.

On the other hand you could try asking FSR for your money back.

NEWS ROUND-UP:

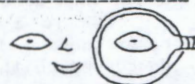
:: Janet and Colin Bord ask me to point out that the editorial in NUN 135 might have implied that there were factual inaccuracies in their 'Modern Mysteries of Britain' coverage of the Jacqueline Fitzsimon SHC story. I am glad to be able to say this is not the case. Whilst there were some factual errors in other books mentioned, the Bord's version is more responsible than most. None the less, Peter Hough and I both still feel that in our opinions they took the line of SHC on this case, with limited justification, and in that sense slanted what was a highly complex matter in a way that could be misleading. However, we greatly respect the Bord's as researchers and will happily just beg to differ over these honest interpretations.

:: For those of you not terribly au fait with the Australian UFO scene I should mention the excellent list of publications available from ACUFOS (Australian Centre for UFO Studies PO Box 728 Lane Cove NSW 2066). These include numerous book-length research documents on cases, research and theories of first rate quality (in English of course). The discerning Ufologist really should send a money order and ask for a list.

:: Reader David Pritchard of Cheadle Hulme asks me to mention that the unofficial air force names given the new F-117A 'Stealth' aircraft are 'Wobblin Goblin' and, more respectfully, 'Spectre' and 'Ghost'.

:: Ralph Noyes also sent me an advert that plopped through his door for the lavish Time-Life book 'The UFO Phenomenon' (produced in heavy glossy text and colour illustrations at £15) (some WH Smith's are stocking it). From skimming through I see it's the first book (written by someone else) which actually devotes a chapter to the Oz Factor. On the other hand, as Ralph's publicity leaflet shows, it includes: 'The UFO that visited Britain.. A UFO sighting at Rendlesham Forest, near Nottingham, is just one of dozens of first hand reports you'll read... Why did the Army keep quiet about it for so long?'... I hope the text inside the book is slightly more accurate!!!

:: Finally, UFO fan Kennedy Osoagwu (PO Box 1425 Festac Town Lagos Nigeria) wants a penpal - if you're interested. He is 16 and wants to know 'how English customs are' and needs 'a full description of Trafalgar Square in London' plus 'the address of James Bond'. He has only one rider; he loves British people - "especially the female citizens."... Any offers?

FOR YOUR PERUSAL:

Major articles elsewhere

MAGONIA March 1989 (£3, for 4, from 5 James Terrace London SW14 8HB)
Heavy on the 'Imagination boundary' idea as an explanation for abductions - with Martin Kottmeyer putting bank balance in jeopardy by psycho-analysing Whitley Strieber. Good piece by two Italian researchers on U.S. ufology.

FORTEAN TIMES Winter 1989 (£7, for 4, from 96 Mansfield Rd London NW3 2HX)
Wonderful: -80 pages of densely packed news so strange that even the 'Sunday Sport' wouldn't print it - problem is, you see, it's true.

IUR Jan/Feb 1989 (\$35, for 6, 2457 W. Peterson Ave, Chicago, IL 60659 USA)
Dr Bruce Maccabee evaluates the 'Billy Meier' UFO film and, surprise, surprise, finds it displays characteristics oddly similar to that of a pendulum bob. Plus a two-page letter/article on the 'true' story behind the Bentwaters case from your editor (entitled 'Rendlescam').

MUFON Journal (\$30, for 12, 103 Oldtowne Rd, Seguin, Texas 78155-4099 USA)
As usual, packed with features; including Jan (Len Stringfield presents his fifth status report on crash/retrievals and Michael Persinger discusses UFO-health effects); Feb (More of Stringfield's amazing anecdotes and Dr David Jacobs on hybrid babies via UFO abductions).

OVNI Presence (25 FS, for 4, AESV Case Postale 342 CH-1800 Vevey 1 Switzlnd)
The delightful French/Swiss magazine always full of news and responsible. Includes some European insights into the 'Light Years' fiasco.

BOOKS OF THE MOMENT:

MJ-12 and the riddle of Hangar 18 by Timothy Green Beckley 1989
Inner Light PO Box 753 New Brunswick NJ 08903 USA 208pp, illus

No price is quoted for this well illustrated large format softback. But I would guess around \$12 is likely. It is from the editor of UFO UNIVERSE and his publication company. They are, I have to report, the US publishers of 'Abduction' (being the only ones willing to publish over there). In view of that fact this book greatly worries me; although I accept from experience that Tim Beckley is an honest man and 'MJ 12' is written with integrity.

The grotesque green alien face on the cover doesn't look like any image I have ever seen reported. But it well describes the content of this book. If you like the style of Beckley's magazine (lively, readable, a good yarn, but hardly overstocked with documentary evidence) then you will probably enjoy this introduction to the 'crashed UFO in freezers' and 'pickled green men' saga. This is folklore that has become accepted fact in the USA and the book attempts to show how an 'exchange programme' is under way. Aliens get free board and lodging on US air bases (presumably in return for the odd kidnap here and there of a few hapless abductees).

The text certainly flows well, very like a novel at times, even when 'real' people such as astronaut Gordon Cooper are cited. But where do you lay down your discrimination? The infamous Scully 'hoax' gets a chapter and is accepted uncritically. With chapter titles like 'Alien dies on air force base' you are under no illusions about what you are in for. And when you see the pretty chronic photos (a few burnt leaves - said to be remains of a fried alien - what seems to be a fairly obvious film emulsion defect - said to be a 'spirit-like' UFO) then your credibility should soon wear thin.

There are plenty of original documents reproduced to keep you happy and, of course, somewhere in these stories there may well be the occasional flicker of truth. The problem is, how do you siphon off the anecdotes that have any likely veracity from the general mess of very tall tales?

I have to say I both cringed and fell about in sheer hysterics when I read Chapter 14 which concerns the Rendlesham Forest case. It credits 'Clear Intent' but seems unaware of 'Sky Crash', yet prints the most ridiculous load of old codswallop masquerading as fact that I have ever seen in print.

Gray Barker's yarn is reproduced whole and unchecked. When he first printed this fairy tale in his so-called 'news' letter in 1983 I complained bitterly to serious American researchers such as Jerry Clark. They told me Gray was a 'nice guy' with a 'sense of humour' and was harmless. Now his total fabrication appears in a book to hoodwink thousands of purchasers - so much for the innocent facade that was presented to me for this man.

Suffice it to say that Barker's 'report' of me strolling down Woodbridge high street one June day, meeting Paul Begg in a pub, sipping coffee over our packages and my discussion of all this and more with the American in a trans-Atlantic phone call is complete and utter fantasy from beginning to end. Almost every single word is either a lie or the invention of a badly deluded storyteller (choose which). When I first saw this I had never heard of Barker (except via UFO lore and his 'Men in Black' connections). Certainly I have never communicated with him in any way. All the other so-called facts are just plain made up... When he wrote it I had never been to Woodbridge. In fact, I had never even been to East Anglia!

You must decide from this fictitious tripe how much of the rest of the book is the same; ie someones pure invention for unknown reasons. I can only speak of certain knowledge on that case. As for the rest - I pass.

In February-March, Tim Good's 'Above Top Secret' came out in paperback from Grafton (uncut at 590pp and costing £5.99). Compare his accurate reporting on the Rendlesham case with that above. Also Grafton reprinted 'Death by Supernatural Causes?' (£2.99) - so you should not have problems getting that in major stores. And my book 'Abduction' made its UK paperback appearance from Headline (also priced at £2.99).

MEDIA MATTERS:-

(((—)))



A look at UFOs in the public eye

I have been very busy with media appearances, of late, promoting the 'Abduction' paperback. Abductee Elsie Oakensen (who will be appearing soon in the ITV game show 'Tell the Truth' - so stay tuned!) has joined me on several (including Derek Jameson's SKY TV chat show - recorded 'live' at the old Windmill Theatre in London. The most successful was the ITV networked 'This Morning' from Liverpool where we talked about a great deal in our fifteen minutes and answered phone callers too. 50 cases have come our way for investigation through that. An interesting one hour phone-in on LBC also saw Tim Good and I together discussing the cover-up. Ralph Noyes called in at one point and this created a nice team effort.

In contrast, the Sunday Sport are still at it (although rather subdued of late). So far this year we've only had a few goodies (perhaps the big piece at Christmas in the Guardian where I chided them on behalf of ufology made its mark and they have developed a conscience... no, well, perhaps not).

Rex Dutta has kept them happy with his suggestion that the malfunctioning Russian Mars probe was kidnapped as 'a reminder' against the use of nuclear power. And on 5 Mar we are informed that "top Ufologists" (un-named, of course) are in a tizzy over Dolly Newland (don't all shout at once Dolly who?). The 76 year old Londoner claims she was first informed of her alien ancestry when she waved at a passing space freighter, age 6. Everyone else thought it was a meteor. Now she entertains shy, invisible aliens regularly. She keeps them in her attic. Form an orderly queue, please.

But it has been the Daily Star determined that the Sport have to be defeated in the battle for extraterrestrial supremacy. They called me one day a few weeks back and insisted on coming straight round and rifling through all the latest case files. "We have to beat the Sunday Sport with all this serious UFO stuff, you know, "a whimpering reporter sniffled. "We want to establish our lead with a major offensive." Offensive is right. I told them politely I was too busy. Others, apparently, have been more helpful.

We had a two day 'exclusive' (27/28 Feb) in which 'The UFO Hunter' told his tales at last. Under the heading 'Aliens are Tony's life' - YUFOS Director of Investigations and ex-PC, Tony Dodd, tells how after years of resisting media pressure he decided to creep stealthily to the Star with his story because of the serious way they treat the subject. He then proceeded to recount some of the 60 "spacecraft" he has seen in the Yorkshire Moors and likened the Yorkshire area to Warminster in Wiltshire.

Not content with this, Arthur Tomlinson was photographed (4 Mar) reading BUFORAs 'UFOs: 1947-87' (Ta!) under the heading 'US airman has desert pow-wow with aliens'. A few pretty dubious US cover-up tales were then trotted out about test-flights of captured spaceships over the Nevada desert. On the plus side the Star did print a retraction on the Barnsley - Peter Beard photos they had trumpeted as 'genuine' just a couple of weeks before. Now suddenly, "UFO aces shoot down rooftop saucer" (17 Mar) and Ground Saucer Watch are credited with having exposed the UFO as something ON the window through which the film was taken. Peter Beard dismissed the suggestion as "rubbish" (see UFO Brigantia for the full story).

The one time I agreed to speak to the Star was when they asked for my comments on the UFO that was shaped like a banana. It landed, you see, to disgorge dead pianist Liberace playing 'Singing in the Rain' and the theme from 'Dr Zhivago' in front of astonished Alabama witnesses. When they told me that the town was called Fyffe and I casually pointed out the link with Fyffe's bananas the reporter said; 'Oh - We never noticed that' - but carried the story anyway as "Liberace back from the dead in a UFO" (7 Mar) (without either my, or anyone elses, cautionary remarks, needless to say).

BRIEF CASES:-

Some current investigations

There were several media vaunted cases during March, starting with the spectacle in the sky above the midlands.

According to the Mansfield press this occurred on 13 March 1989 when 'strange lights' were seen. Local ufologists were despatched to advise locals to keep watching the sky because the glows were a natural aurora effect - made unusually prominent due to considerable sunspot activity. The main show centred elsewhere. The Derby Telegraph reported that residents in the county feared 'CE 3s' when the glowing colours painted the horizon 'like dawn', but the weather centre at Watnall near Nottingham assured everyone it was merely the 'Northern Lights' visible unusually far south because of excess electrons from the sun that were striking the atmosphere.

Primarily white and green the curtain of lights brought calls flooding into Newchapel observatory from all over southern Cheshire and northern Staffordshire. Michael Pace (brother of BUFORAs former research director - Tony) commented on the rarity of the sideshow. But, as usual, the intrepid reporter for the Stoke Sentinel messed up - calling Michael an astrologer!

A week later, whilst Tim Good and I were on radio in London, news reports came through from northern Scotland of a new spectacle. On the 20 March RAF planes flying high spotted a brilliant trail of lights crossing the sky and for a time a rescue mission was launched. This time it was not the Aurora, but (according to astronomers) a slow-moving bolide meteor. An Aberdeen space expert, Dr Michael Gadsden, missed the early morning chance of life time whilst eating his third shredded wheat, but says "I do not believe in UFOs. After all, the technology is so good there has never been a single crash. Nobody has ever found any wreckage with little green men strewn around it. After 30 years you would think someone would have found a bit of a spacecraft labelled 'Made on Mars'."

The remarkably 'informed' Dr G is currently recuperating from his delusions at the 'Falcon' and 'Condor' school for rehabilitation on a course of force-fed strawberry ice-cream.*

Finally, the most visible 'UFO' report featured in most daily papers later that week. The London Evening Standard broke it. The sighting occurred at 19.00 on 21 March on the inaugural (press launch and VIP promotional) flight of a British Island Airways 'tristar' (sic - see later) returning to London Gatwick from Malta and flying over Sardinia.

When Captain Bob Taylor excitedly told passengers to look out their windows at a passing UFO, most suspected a publicity stunt. Passenger Susie Walton (who works for LBC - the very radio station Tim Good and I had just been debating aliens on but a few hours before!) says that the lights were pretty - "like a bright, glistening (silver) cloud with lots of colours". They left a smoke trail. The pilot dismissed suggestions of a missile launch (based on the smokey appearance) and said they would have known about any launches near their path. "There was no danger, but it was very interesting" he told LBC. "Who knows, we might have seen a UFO."

Minutes after the sighting the aircraft plunged down hundreds of feet (some passengers said thousands and Susie Walton said there was panic aboard). Today commented (23 March) how the some VIPs lost their smoked salmon in the fracas (aaah). The captain (who at first also thought it was a missile because of its steep ascent) later said; "I can tell my grandchildren". But the airline chairman (probably concerned about damage to their reputation) noted that; "The lights were anything from 500 to 3000 miles away. I'm certain it was not a UFO." This increased the likelihood it was a chance observation of a very distant rocket launch. The plunge (said to be due to 'wake turbulence' by the airline) might have been unrelated.

The Sun pulled no punches saying the jet with 140 aboard DID plunge "thousands of feet after a close encounter with a UFO" (translation: - a hundred feet or so after passing a rocket launch hundreds of miles away!). It further spoke of passengers being thrown against the ceiling, heavy praying going on... Although the airline again tried to reject this scene out of a horror movie by saying; "It has been blown out of all proportion."

On 26 March the Sunday Express carried a quote from the MoD saying that the lights were not a UFO or a missile but the (migrating) northern lights. However, the ultimate revelation came from an angry Richard Harris - airline sales manager. The aircraft WASN'T a tristar (but an MD-83). Nobody was panicking (except a few journalists whom he claimed had drunk too much). The pilot was JOKING about a UFO. The 'slight' turbulence came HALF AN HOUR later. And the 'UFO' was identified as a French missile launch. Okay?

* (Editors note: If you did not understand that bit, then recent MJ-12 revelations in the US from 'moles' code-named Falcon and Condor allege that the most significant fact learned from crashed UFOs and dead aliens is their liking for strawberry ice cream!)

SOUTH AFRICAN ADVENTURE

George H is a professional musician living in the North East, but as a child he lived in South Africa with his parents. One night in the winter of 1957 Mrs H (then aged 28) was in the living room in Dakbrek near Welcom at about 22.00 hrs on a clear night with many stars. Her ears were detecting a



low pitched droning noise. It seemed to be at the front of the house, so she went to the window and above a large weeping willow in the front garden observed a cigar shaped object. The size was larger than the full moon and it was a silvery metallic blue on top; although the base seemed to be glowing orange. As soon as Mrs H reached the window the droning ceased. It remained absolutely motionless for up to 45 minutes and Mrs H finally decided to shout for her son (George) - who was then aged 7 and in bed. George recalls being woken by the shouts; saying 'Come and see this'. But he cannot recall anything else - not even whether he saw the UFO or not. Mrs H adds that there is then a memory lapse at this stage. After calling George she next found herself in the bedroom with him looking at the object. The droning had started again and the cigar moved to one side, accelerated vertically and disappeared. A few minutes later Mr H returned home and was told the story by his wife, but he did not believe her.

There are some hints here that might suggest a deeper aspect to this case. And there is a very interesting prequel which occurred a few months before. George was returning from school and was used to his dog running up to greet him when nearly there. But on this day the dog saw him but did not approach. Instead he ran around in circles whining into the air. The next thing George experienced was being bathed in a brilliant glow and then a total blank. He recovered his senses flat on the floor in a strangers house with a woman cradling his head and pressing a glass of fruit juice to his lips. George grew up being told that he had been struck by lightning.

Mrs H still believes this was the case, but adds a rider. Two men professing to be reporters arrived at their house to interview George in detail about the events. Whether any story was ever written is not recalled, but Mrs H does remember that they arrived the same afternoon as the incident took place, which seemed a remarkably swift response.

We have contemplated hypnotic regression. However, in view of the possibility that George may indeed have been struck by lightning, it seems most unwise to ask that he relive such a trauma in this way. George has now a deep interest in UFOs and regards them as interconnected with changes in social culture. He has used his studio and synthesiser to 'clean up' the Halt/Rendlesham Forest tape and produced a fascinating experimental combination of his original ethereal music and the airmen's voice snippets.

CASE 6006 WAPIT September 1960 Farnworth; Lancashire John Cotton B 5-5

Mrs DK had just moved into her first house with her husband and young daughter. In the twilight sky from the bedroom window she saw a disc shape covered in many pulsing lights hovering over trees in a nearby park. It then dipped slightly, hovered again and headed towards them. She called her husband, who saw it too. As it approached the house it was totally silent. They stood 'gawking like idiots' as it moved quickly to the left and simply vanished. WAPIT have no explanation to offer for this sighting.

AIMING FOR A UFO GOAL

Gordon Brown is seeking assistance from anyone who might have been at Roker Park, Sunderland, on 22 September 1951, watching Sunderland FC play Portsmouth in a soccer game. He was a soldier on leave and the man in the crowd next to him pointed at the sky and they both watched a UFO "like two soup plates stuck together" which fell slowly to around 10,000 feet and then zig-zagged away at amazing speed. The sighting occurred during the first half of the match (ie around 15.00-15.30 hrs) and lasted over 20 minutes. If you can help contact 'Dicky' on 091-534-3011 (Ext 46).

I have checked NUFON's extensive cardex files of over 3000 cases in the north and there is no record of the sighting. Any sleuths out there?

CASE 6731 MUFORA Summer 1967 Hazel Grove, Cheshire Roy Sandbach C2-5

JP was driving his elderly parents (now deceased) to Hazel from Matlock at around 02.00 when they saw a round object apparently hovering over the railway bridge on the A6. It was as bright as the sun with a red centre and an orange edge to it. After about ten seconds it appeared to streak off at tremendous speed towards the Pennines (ie east). If anyone really is keen, the date is known to be between summer 1967 and about two years later. But on the same night a reported robbery occurred in Bramhall when some people were held up by bow and arrow. Anyone who fancies eyestrain in the microfilm library of the Manchester Evening News could trace it - good luck to you!

CASE 6732 MUFORA Unknown 1967 Parkfields, Staffordshire C3-3

Mrs K was a teenager at the time and was returning from school near Wolverhampton at about 16.00 hrs. She saw a classic flying saucer in the sky but nobody else appears to have noticed it. It was silver and seemed to be rotating like a child's top. It went behind a cloud after a few seconds and did not come out of the other side. Mrs K seems to have a very strong gift for imagining. She describes frequent vivid dreams (including an NDE type experience where she went towards a bright light with figures beckoning and 'knew' that if she entered she would have to leave her children and could not return to earth for four years). In September 1988, whilst with two others in a car driving her son to school at Telford, Shropshire (where she now lives) she saw a huge grey object over wasteland. Many people were about but nobody saw it. She has also had many floating sensations, flying dreams and 'seen herself' in bed numerous times during sleep. She also sees red lights in the sky over the Wrekin which she considers to be spaceships.



RAINFORD BY-PASS UFO

Investigation by MUFORA Case 79-179 3 August 1979 Rainford, Merseyside

Mr W, a retired dance teacher, had been to Liverpool to collect his 19 year old daughter from her boyfriends. At about midnight, travelling north on the A 570 and heading for home in Skelmersdale, Jane mentioned a low flying aircraft. Mr W took no notice for some minutes, until she became insistent and he glanced out of his window to the right. There it was over fields very close to the car and apparently hovering perfectly still within clouds.

The object was very large (moon sized) and shaped like a typical flying saucer, with a bell-like dome on the top which had a row of white windows on it. The base also had similar white portholes but the most curious feature was underneath



which seemed to have a large number of upside down pyramids on it. These were vivid blue in colour, similar to that given off by the beam from a police patrol car. Mr W slowed the car to walking pace as they drifted past. It neither moved nor uttered a sound; although clouds periodically covered it. They had now approached the roundabout for the M 58 motorway and, regretting not having been able to stop on a dual carriageway, turned round and returned to the spot where it had been visible over fields (towards Billinge). But there was nothing there. A number of other reports in the Ormskirk/Rainford area are on file for the days around this. And a similar looking UFO was recorded over the power station at Shotton on Deeside (just 20 miles south west) - allegedly sucking power from the electricity cables. We cannot account for this one, unless it's a very extreme exaggeration of the moon (which was around two-thirds full and rising low on the horizon at the time). Any offers?

CASE 8343 WAPIT Summer 1983 Horwich, Lancashire

C2-2

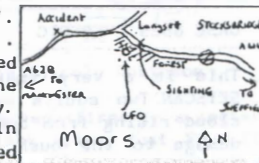
Mr D observed a silvery cigar at noon on a sunny day. It hovered above houses, moved to one side and vanished at great speed.

POSSIBLE TIME-LAPSE OVER PENNINES

Investigation by Peter Hough, MUFORA Case 8747 19 September 1987 A8-8

Mr M had been to a wedding in Stocksbridge, near Sheffield, South Yorkshire. As he does not drink and the party retired to a club he chose to visit his sister (who lives in the village). At 21.25 hrs, realising he had left his wife alone in Manchester, Mr M set off for home. At the top of Langsett Hill, rising out of the city, he slowed down for no accountable reason. A voice inside seemed to say 'take your time'.

At this point a pine forest runs beside the road. In a clearing that appears to his left (west) a red light caught his attention. As he turned to face it he was so surprised by what he saw that he swore loudly. There were alternating strips of light that pulsed in sequence red then white. They appeared to be attached to a circular shape hovering around 50 feet off the ground. The 'hypnotic' lights were illuminating the tops of fir trees in the forest. The shape behind the lights was not clear, but seemed to be a dirty black/grey. Just a hundred yards further on Mr M spotted a lay-by and stopped to get out. From here the trees totally obscured the clearing (which you only see very briefly as you drive past). It was deathly silent out on the edge of the Pennines. He got back in the car and was thinking of all sorts of explanations (eg drug smugglers in helicopters). Deciding he was better off not involved, he drove away. Turning left onto the main Woodhead road across the Pennines, about 4 miles later he saw a car on its bonnet having clearly been involved in an accident. Somebody waved him past slowly and he had no need to stop. He reached home in Manchester and was amazed to find his wife dressed ready for bed. It was 23.10 hrs. He was adamant he had lost an hour.



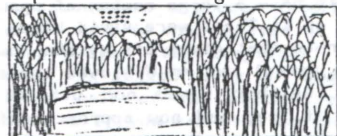
The case was first reported to DIGAP soon after it happened. When MUFORA got involved it was discovered that Mr M had revisited the site almost every Saturday night since it occurred to try to see the thing again. On 8 December 1987 several MUFORA members travelled with the witness on such an expedition. The lights were measured as being about 270 feet from the witness at closest point; although reconstructing the events found Mr M now rather unsure of the correct clearing (there were several). Also how did he take in such detail? Even at a slow cruise you passed the largest clearing in two seconds. He added that there were other anomalous images in his mind. He saw himself standing in the clearing looking up at the object and he had a vision of a pear shaped face with slit mouth and large round eyes. If there was indeed a time-lapse these facts might be important. To check this several timing reconstructions were carried out. There is no doubt the journey is possible in 35 to 45 minutes without excessive speed. Yet on the night in question Mr M says he took over twice that long. South Yorkshire police confirmed a traffic accident on that night and that an officer (from the Derbyshire force) attended to direct traffic from 20.30 to 22.15 hrs. However, here is the puzzle. For the UFO sighting (and so the time lapse?) occurred well BEFORE Mr M passed the accident. From the accident site (Saltersbrook Bridge) to home in Manchester only half an hour is required. Yet he arrived at 23.10 and the police officer left the accident scene at 22.15 (although other people might have been still there). Mr M's sister cannot confirm the time he left; although she seemed to feel it was after 21.25. Therefore, a time lapse is far from proven. Police suggested that the lights were cars on Bord Hill. From the clearing these seem to be above the trees and are line of sight straight at you. An illusion of static lights above the clearing is created, but they are nothing like what Mr M described and he has seen them frequently since without batting an eyelid. Hypnosis was mooted with the witness, but he decided against it. However, he has a long history of minor psychic, OOBs and a bedroom visitor apparition within his past.

CASE 8829 LUFOIC 4 August 1988 Little Hayward, Staffs C. Potter A 9-7

This is a very impressive case, excellently investigated by LUFOIC and SKYSCAN. Two adults returning from a Cannock meeting observed a luminous cloud rising from bushes ahead of them and disappearing over a river. Some damage to the bush was discovered the next day. Extensive investigation included geological surveys, plant biology analysis and on-site follow up by a professional meteorologist associated with Dr Terrence Meaden. This very interesting close encounter will be reported in depth in the May issue of UFO Brigantia. If you haven't got a joint subscription yet - see page 16.

CASE 8826 MUFORA 4 November 1988 Shrewsbury, Shropshire J. Randles C2-2

Mr H was walking to bus stop at 05.15 to go to work. It was a cold dark morning with many stars. Looking at sky (a light plane had just passed over) he saw a V formation of red/orange blobs coming from the north-west and flying overhead. About 10-15 tiny circular blobs formed the pattern. One of them then detached and 'drew' the others with it, changing formation as it flew off. MUFORA is certain these were a bird flock reflecting streetlamps from their underbellies.



A BRIEF CASE LOAD OF EDUCATIONAL IFOS

In Case 8827 reader Mr S from Woodplumpton, Lancashire, reports that on 14 November 1988 between 17.18 and 17.23 hrs he saw a white flashing light moving north east to south east across the sky. It was like a high flying plane but had an irregular flash pattern, which created the impression of a slightly erratic path. It vanished suddenly and he was convinced it was not a plane. However, MUFORA point out that it is most likely precisely that. The new strobe lighting on aircraft using the main 'Amber 1' airway (in exactly the position described) can look like this due to the pattern of moving flashes enhanced by changes in angle as the plane moves. (As the airway passes nearly directly over Stockport north-south, I have seen the same thing many times and so can confirm this diagnosis absolutely - Editor)

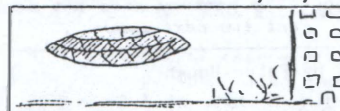
In Case 8831 a call via Jodrell Bank advised of a sighting on 5 December 1988 at 22.30 hrs from Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire. A woman had observed a large light in the sky periodically flashing red/blue/white and green. At midnight when she went to bed it was still there. She was convinced it was Jupiter but did not know it was so bright or changed colour. Jodrell Bank told her it was NOT Jupiter and suggested a UFO. From descriptions and directions this clearly WAS Jupiter. When I asked Jodrell for an explanation they said, "Sorry - we don't actually have an astronomer on staff here. Our chart must be wrong. Glad you called so we can correct it" (!!)

Finally, Case 8828 comes from Frodsham, Cheshire, on 29 December 1988 at 07.25 hrs. A young girl walking to work spotted a 'star' which glowed yellow-white and kept changing shape (to a dumbbell or 'figure 8') and returning to a 'star ball'. It was in view for a couple of minutes before disappearing into a point of light. The conditions were cloudy and this appears to have been the planet Venus plus frosty skies and optical distortion on the eyes. There is no reason to consider it anything else. (See Gary Anthony's column last issue).

CASE HISTORIES:

A SPRINKLE OF SCOTTISH HEATHER (Part 1) SPI Report by Malcolm Robinson

Case 76-179 occurred in March 1976, but was reported (first in a letter to JR) 11 years later. At the time the witness, Clark C, was just FOUR. It happened above Wester Hailles in Dumbarton when Clark was playing (afternoon on a cloudy day) and suddenly 'felt as if I was being watched'.



He looked back at the block of flats outside which he was playing, but saw nobody. Turning back to the sky he saw a 'huge' grey cigar. It was passing silently overhead. He says it was enormous and he lost all track of time. The area became very quiet during the sighting and he felt oddly calm (all classic Oz Factor symptoms). Clark cannot recall how the object disappeared. But he says that a few months afterwards he started to "see pictures of things" whilst he lay "in bed, half-asleep... (they were) things happening or myself finding things. Next day I would forget all about it, until what I saw (really) happened." Clark says these premonitions still occur. He also alleges that he has been able to change traffic lights and make streetlamps go on and off merely by willing them to. He adds: "This may be just coincidence - but I know these things happened."

Malcolm Robinson considered the sighting too old and the witness too young (still only aged 16/17) for a proper investigation. He also feels the UFO was probably just an airship; all very sensible and deductive comments which Clark even supports... *(I must admit I have a sneaking feeling there is more to this case than meets the eye, and I hope that SPI will monitor the progress of this witness over the next year or two - Jenny Randles).*

Case 8342 happened on 23 March 1983 above the town of Stirling. Frank McKay assisted in the investigation. Again the witness was a child at the time (Dorothy B, aged 11) and again wrote to JR (after an article in BELLA). She says she was in her sisters room (around 21.00) when she saw the lights. They were in a triangle (two white, one red, all steady). As it moved to the west she ran into another room and saw it hover over a dairy. The lights seemed to be inset into the base of a disc-like object that was very large. A dairyman was outside as the thing passed over him, but she was too frightened to open the window and call out. He seemed completely unaware of the thing flying above his head. Dorothy says the whole area was "so quiet. No birds sang - nothing." She turned to call her mother, but when she looked back the UFO had moved far away and was now just a light.

Dorothy is described by the investigators as very lucid and rational but they feel it probable she mistook a light aircraft (although the sister who was in the first room with Dorothy says she saw and heard NOTHING).

Finally, in Case 8429 (which also came originally in a letter to JR from a reader of 'The UFO Conspiracy') we meet Jim and Denise (in their 30's) who were on a hillwalking holiday on 7 March 1984. It was 23.30 hrs and they were at Ardgay, Ross & Cromarty on OS Map 20 (Ref 425895). The night was mild and cloudy and they had decided to bed down in a bothy (a basic hill shelter) on this remote slope.

Jim went outside to perform a natural function and saw to the north a series of flashes above the hilltop. He describes it as like "a line of car headlights were being flashed onto cloud". He called Denise out and they stood watching for some time. The lights were dullish white. Although they had cameras they never thought to take photographs.

After 15-20 minutes they returned into the bothy for a cup of tea, leaving the lights (which painted about a mile of the horizon). There was no sound at all despite the silent surroundings. At 00.15 they returned outside, but nothing was visible. They then filled in the bothy's 'visitor book' with a report. They later ruled out the Aurora by checking with Dundee observatory. Speaking with a local shepherd next day he had seen nothing. There was a NATO exercise on at the time in the northern highlands and they speculate on searchlights connected with this. The nearest road north of them is over ten miles away, so this seems an unlikely cause.

The only other option is 'earthlights', but the geology does not seem to be ideal... Any suggestions on this case? *Part two next issue...*

THE PERFECT ABDUCTION (Part 6) MUFORA Report by Peter Hough

Case 8744 1 December 1987 Ilkley Moor, W. Yorkshire Level A (SP 9-5)

It is time to tie up the loose ends of this complex CE 4 (probably the most baffling and intriguing case MUFORA has ever had). A few aspects have so far been left out. Most significant was an alleged MIB visit on 15 January 1988 (when Peter Hough had just got the photographs for analysis). Philip Shaw claimed that the two visitors (one of whom was silent whilst the other talked) professed to be from the MoD and gave names (Jefferson and Davies!)

These names were checked with the MoD (but they have neither confirmed nor denied their reality). Note the former President Jefferson Davies!

This visit (later confirmed by Mrs Shaw) allegedly put the wind up Philip. He called Peter Hough the same night to report it (although his wife failed to talk to Peter then, or to Jenny the next day, and it was some time before she did affirm the story). The MIB had mentioned the photograph, seemingly aware of its existence. However, at this time - six weeks after the case - only Peter and Jenny at MUFORA and the two DIGAP investigators knew about the case and had the witness's real name and ex-directory phone number. In his conversation with Peter after the visit the witness spoke of his fear that the case might now end up in the press.

The very next morning (less than 12 hours after expressing this fear) Philip called Peter to return the photograph, because a tabloid newspaper (NOT the Star later to feature the case thanks to bumbling Balon) HAD precisely fulfilled his worries and called. Peter had to go out and left it to Jenny to try to sort out the mess. She spoke immediately to both London and Manchester offices of the paper. Making as discrete enquiries as possible without giving much away, BOTH categorically denied making the call. Philip said he had received just minutes before, or (more importantly) the call he had claimed to make back to them. When Jenny put this to Philip he calmed down appreciably and asked for investigation of the photo to proceed.

The publicity six months later (against everyone's wishes) has undermined the case. It had already been planned that IUN members should visit the site on the one year anniversary of the case (1 December 1988) to reproduce taking the photo and test light conditions. No publicity before then was desired. Some stupid ufological sources (notably Paul Bennett in EARTH magazine) have criticised MUFORA for inept investigation and, quite ridiculously, for taking too long to follow up this case and allegedly not informing the UFO community fast enough.

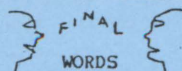
I regard the follow up by Peter on this case as first-rate. Considering it could only begin in January 1988 and that the past six issues of this magazine have summarised the case for you (and Peter has published an in-depth report in UFO UNIVERSE last autumn for the US market) these comments are difficult to comprehend. A case needing follow up of photographic, physical, electro-magnetic and psychological/hypnotic research cannot be published five minutes after it happened. Especially not one as complex and controversial as this. You read about it as soon as there was something worth reading about and IUN/BUFORA were briefed on the case just weeks in.

Work proceeds, of course. Attempts to find a source able to computer enhance the image of the 'alien' have so far failed. The IUN anniversary shots were very useful in that they isolated a lighting/landscape effect which seems without doubt to be the white blob on the photograph that MIGHT have correlated with the 'box' reported atop the UFO. The witness himself never actually connected the two incidents even when the blob on his photo was pointed out to him. Clever double bluff or strange coincidence?

It is premature even after 18 months to say what the answer is to this case. One day we may have a more definitive solution. The only real options are that the witness is involved in a complicated hoax or a 'genuine' CE 4.

If genuine, the case is unique from many perspectives. This is why so much time is being expended on it. However, it has to be said that the concept of a hoax (possibly a set up to test investigational competence of ufologists) is not being overlooked and some evidence supports that. On the other hand, the witness is apparently sincere, modest and sticks to his story very well.

The latest news as I write is that Philip has agreed to take part in a Japanese TV documentary on Yorkshire UFOs, with no name given, his face blacked out and his voice electronically altered to sound like Donald Duck. Whether that will help or hinder the case and its credibility remains to be seen. And if Peter, MUFORA or anybody else comes up with more, you'll read it.



Those of you who have been calling the British Telecom UFO CALL operated by BUFORA may have noticed a few teething troubles. Notably, no new message every single week. The reasons are the same as those delaying this issue of Northern UFO News (for which I apologise)... Two books to complete by 31 March, an unexpectedly grand tour to promote 'Abduction' (taking me all over Britain) and, most importantly, health factors within my family. I look after two disabled parents and this, of course, takes priority. So far all the BUFORA messages have been left to me - and I can only change them when time permits. Please try to bear with me on these things. Messages are now appearing as frequently as possible and are as up to date as they can be made. Try it out by phoning 0898-12 18 86 (Anywhere in the UK).

The Mar UFO BRIGANTIA has an earthlights theme (latest from Hessdalen) and has articles on GEPAN folding and NEW SCIENTIST vs the UFOs. May will feature a big case history on the Cannock Chase UFO (see p.12). If you aren't getting enough (ufology) then you can top up your 1989 subs for the remaining 4 BRIGANTIA'S. Just send £4 to NUN and get a MONTHLY magazine.

CALENDAR

BUFORA lectures (London Business School, near Baker St tube, 6.30pm) on 6 May and 3 June (US Ufology/Abductions). 14/15/16 July (same venue) International Congress - for details write to PO 314, Penn, High Wycombe, Bucks HP10 8PB

MUFON Regional Groups

SPI	(Scotland)	4 Woodlea Park, Branshill, Sauchie, Alloa	FK10 3BG
NLUFOIG	(Cumbria)	89 Bare Lane, Morecambe, Lancashire	LA 4 6RN
HSVL	(Nth Lancs)	63 Devonshire Dr, Clayton-le-Moors, Lancs	BB 5 5RH
B&FUFOS	(Fylde Coast)	293 Devonshire Rd, Blackpool, Lancashire	FY 2 0TW
WAPIT	(Sth Lancs)	20 Duncan Place, Pemberton, Wigan, Lancs	WN 5 6RP
MUFORA*	(Cheshire)	6 Silsden Ave, Loughton, Lancashire	WA 3 1EN
IUN	(Yorkshire)	1 Woodhall Dr, Healey Lane, Batley, W. Yks	WF17 7SW
CUFOSC	(Shropshire)	117 Earle Street, Crewe, Cheshire	CW 1 2AG
SSPR	(Derbyshire)	17 Old Quarry Ave, Wales, Sheffield	S 31 8RP
BASE	(W. Midlands)	2 Chapel St, Kingswinford, W. Midlands	DY 6 0JU
LUFOIC	(E. Midlands)	31 Grove Rd, Highfields, Leicester, Leics	LE 5 3HJ
MUFORC	(Northants)	46 Occupation Rd, Corby, Northants	NN17 2EF

* MUFON archive files held at University Chaplaincy, accessible c/o MUFORA T:0942-604265